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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/940,526

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-5. (canceled).

6. (previously presented): A lithographic printing plate precursor comprising an image forming layer containing at least one polymer compound having a fluoroaliphatic group on the side chain, and an aluminum substrate, wherein

the image forming layer is a photosensitive layer containing a light-heat converting agent, a heat radical generator and a radical polymerizable compound, and the photosensitive layer can decrease in the solubility in an alkaline developer upon exposure to laser beams, and

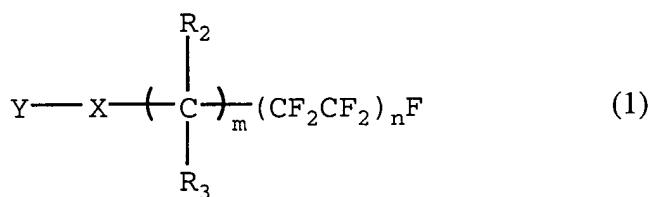
the fluoroaliphatic group is derived from a fluoroaliphatic compound produced by a telomerization method of addition-polymerizing a tetrafluoroethylene in the presence of an alkyl iodide compound, or an oligomerization method.

7. (canceled).

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8. (original): A lithographic printing plate precursor comprising an image forming layer containing at least one polymer compound, the polymer compound having a fluoroaliphatic group on the side chain,

wherein the fluoroaliphatic group is represented by the formula (1):



wherein R_2 and R_3 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, X represents a single bond or a divalent linking group, Y represents a moiety for binding to a polymer main chain, m represents an integer of 0 or more, and n represents an integer of 1 or more, and the polymer compound comprises four fluoroaliphatic groups in which n in formula (1) is 3, 4, 5 and 6, respectively,

wherein the polymer compound satisfies one of the following conditions (I) and (II):

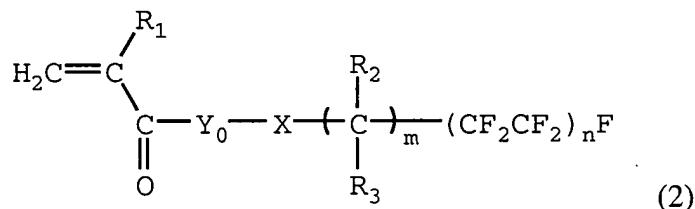
(I) a monomer unit having the fluoroaliphatic group in which n in the formula (1) is 4, accounts for 40 to 97 mol% based on the sum total of the monomer units having groups in which n in the formula (1) represents 3, 4, 5 and 6; and

(II) a monomer unit having the fluoroaliphatic group in which n in the formula (1) is 3, accounts for 40 to 97 mol% based on the sum total of the monomer units having groups in which n in the formula (1) represents 3, 4, 5 and 6.

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9. (original): The lithographic printing plate precursor as claimed in claim 8, wherein the monomer unit having the group in which n of the formula (1) represents 4 accounts for 60 to 95 mol% based on the sum total of the monomer units having groups in which n of the formula (1) represents 3, 4, 5 and 6.

10. (original): The lithographic printing plate precursor as claimed in claim 8, wherein the polymer compound contains a monomer unit represented by formula (2):



wherein R₁ represents a hydrogen atom, halogen atom or a methyl group which may be substituted, R₂ and R₃ each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, X represents a single bond or a divalent linking group, Y₀ represents a divalent organic group, m represents an integer of 0 or more, and n represents an integer of 1 or more.

11. (original): The lithographic printing plate precursor as claimed in claim 8, wherein the polymer compound comprises a monomer unit having the fluoroaliphatic group in an amount of 1 wt% or more, based on weight of the polymer compound.

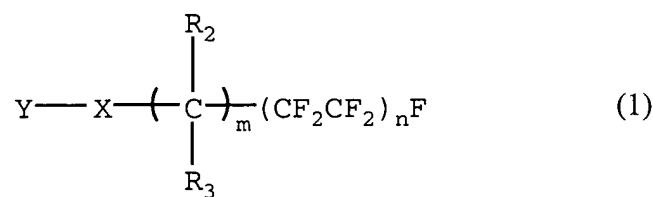
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12. (original): The lithographic printing plate precursor as claimed in claim 8, wherein the polymer compound comprises a monomer unit having the fluoroaliphatic group in an amount of 3 to 70 mol%, based on weight of the polymer compound.

13. (original): The lithographic printing plate precursor as claimed in claim 8, wherein the polymer compound has a weight average molecular weight of 3,000 to 200,000.

14. (original): The lithographic printing plate precursor as claimed in claim 8, wherein the image forming layer comprises the polymer compound in an amount of 0.001 to 10 weight%, based on the weight of the image forming layer.

15. (previously presented): A lithographic printing plate precursor comprising
(A) an image forming layer containing at least one polymer compound, the polymer compound having a fluoroaliphatic group on the side chain,
wherein the fluoroaliphatic group is represented by the formula (1):



wherein R_2 and R_3 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, X represents a single bond or a divalent linking group, Y

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represents a moiety for binding to a polymer main chain, m represents an integer of 0 or more, and n represents an integer of 1 or more, and

the polymer compound comprises four fluoroaliphatic groups in which n in formula (1) is 3, 4, 5 and 6, respectively,

wherein the polymer compound satisfies one of the following conditions (I) and (II):

(I) a monomer unit having the fluoroaliphatic group in which n in the formula (1) is 4, accounts for 40 to 97 mol% based on the sum total of the monomer units having groups in which n in the formula (1) represents 3, 4, 5 and 6; and

(II) a monomer unit having the fluoroaliphatic group in which n in the formula (1) is 3, accounts for 40 to 97 mol% based on the sum total of the monomer units having groups in which n in the formula (1) represents 3, 4, 5 and 6, and

(B) an aluminum substrate,

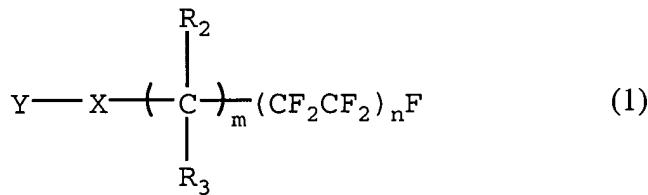
wherein the image forming layer is a photosensitive layer containing a light-heat converting agent and a binder resin, and the photosensitive layer can increase or decrease in the solubility in an alkaline developer upon exposure to laser beams.

16. (previously presented): A lithographic printing plate precursor comprising

(A) an image forming layer containing at least one polymer compound, the polymer compound having a fluoroaliphatic group on the side chain,

wherein the fluoroaliphatic group is represented by the formula (1):

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wherein R_2 and R_3 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, X represents a single bond or a divalent linking group, Y represents a moiety for binding to a polymer main chain, m represents an integer of 0 or more, and n represents an integer of 1 or more, and

the polymer compound comprises four fluoroaliphatic groups in which n in formula (1) is 3, 4, 5 and 6, respectively,

wherein the polymer compound satisfies one of the following conditions (I) and (II):

(I) a monomer unit having the fluoroaliphatic group in which n in the formula (1) is 4, accounts for 40 to 97 mol% based on the sum total of the monomer units having groups in which n in the formula (1) represents 3, 4, 5 and 6; and

(II) a monomer unit having the fluoroaliphatic group in which n in the formula (1) is 3, accounts for 40 to 97 mol% based on the sum total of the monomer units having groups in which n in the formula (1) represents 3, 4, 5 and 6, and

(B) an aluminum substrate,

wherein the image forming layer is a photosensitive layer containing a light-heat converting agent, a heat radical generator and a radical polymerizable compound, and the photosensitive layer can decrease in the solubility in an alkaline developer upon exposure to laser rays.

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17. (original): The lithographic printing plate precursor as claimed in claim 8, which further comprises an aluminum substrate, wherein the substrate has small pits having an average opening diameter of 0.01 to 3 μm with the ratio of average depth of the small pits to the average opening diameter of the small pits being from 0.1 to 0.5, by an electrochemical surface-roughening treatment using an aqueous solution containing hydrochloric acid.

18. (original): The lithographic printing plate precursor as claimed in claim 8, wherein the polymer compound is at least one selected from the group consisted of an acrylic resin, a methacrylic resin, a styryl resin, a polyester resin and a polyurethane resin, each of which has the fluoroaliphatic group on the side chain.

19. (currently amended): A plate-making method comprising:
imagewise exposing a lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1
comprising an image forming layer containing at least one polymer compound having a
fluoroaliphatic group on the side chain, wherein the fluoroaliphatic group is derived from a
fluoroaliphatic compound produced by a telomerization method of addition-polymerizing a
tetrafluoroethylene in the presence of an alkyl iodide compound, or an oligomerization method;
and

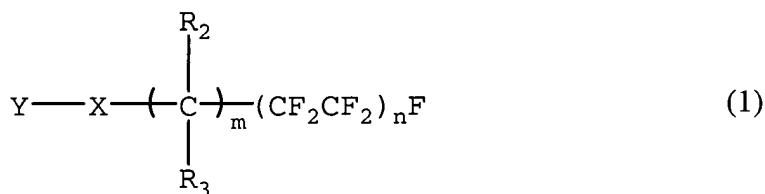
processing the plate precursor with a developer in which the content of a silicate is not more than 0.5 % by weight.

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20. (currently amended): A plate-making method comprising:
imagewise exposing a lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 8; and
processing the plate precursor with a developer in which the content of a silicate is not more than
0.5 % by weight,

wherein the lithographic printing plate precursor comprises an image forming layer
containing at least one polymer compound, the polymer compound having a fluoroaliphatic
group on the side chain,

wherein the fluoroaliphatic group is represented by the formula (1):



wherein R₂ and R₃ each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group
having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, X represents a single bond or a divalent linking group, Y
represents a moiety for binding to a polymer main chain, m represents an integer of 0 or more,
and n represents an integer of 1 or more, and
the polymer compound comprises four fluoroaliphatic groups in which n in formula (1) is 3, 4, 5
and 6, respectively,

wherein the polymer compound satisfies one of the following conditions (I) and (II):

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(I) a monomer unit having the fluoroaliphatic group in which n in the formula (1) is 4,
accounts for 40 to 97 mol% based on the sum total of the monomer units having groups in which
n in the formula (1) represents 3, 4, 5 and 6; and

(II) a monomer unit having the fluoroaliphatic group in which n in the formula (1) is 3,
accounts for 40 to 97 mol% based on the sum total of the monomer units having groups in which
n in the formula (1) represents 3, 4, 5 and 6.